



The Raoul Follereau Foundation (Malta) - The Order of Charity
is a registered NGO [No. VO/0980]
administered by the
Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands
of the
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DECEMBER 2022

RAOUL FOLLEREAU FOUNDATION (MALTA): NGO NO. VO/0980

Order of Charity Newsletter

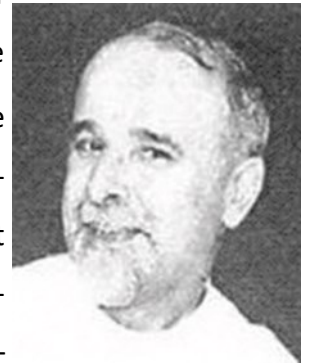
EDITORIAL

A Leprosarium in Chennai.

This service is given to thousands of families, children, teens, young adults, and the elderly. This is all a fruit of the collaboration among three congregations in the Salesian Family: the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and the congregation of the Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix. Children attend the grammar school run by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, who also care for teenage girls; the Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix assist elderly men and women who have no source of welfare and the Salesian priests and brothers care for boys and girls of varying ages as well as taking in street children, they visit the

extremely poor families in the area and take care of the parish. What matters here is not who owns the land or the buildings but the good that is done –

and is done together – going out to meet the poorest and most fragile. If it were not for that little paradise called “The Beatitudes,” which God had in mind for them, frailty, poverty, and insecurity would have the last word. Every day, food for 300 elderly persons is guaranteed, over 1,000 children are served, and over 15,000 people find relief for various needs, “all at zero cost.” Those who enter into this Village of the Beatitudes see with their own eyes these “fifty years of daily miracles.” For



the young of the shanty towns, it is an oasis. It

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is a church, school, playground for games, a gym and a home.



The

mottoes that characterize this house are: "Serving those who are ill is the best prayer." (Fr. Mantovani) "No one has the right to be happy all by himself." "It is possible to give without love, but it is not possible to love without giving."

All this speaks of the beauty of the Gospel that is passed down throughout the world, often with the strength of charity carried out in silence. And these are the words spoken by a Hindu public official: "If the Christian religion can produce men such as Don Mantovani, it has to be divine."

Adapted by Fr Joe Cini SChLJ



The story of Nain

The troubled look on 12-year-old Kamal's face says it all. He was traumatized when he lost his mum and dad, and his home.



In year 2015, there was an Earthquake in Nepal and Nain and his two sons were left deeply distressed by the impact. They lost their home and Nain lost his wife, mother of the 2 kids.

Nain, had leprosy-related disabilities, and was dependent on his wife for so many things. She was the bread winner of the family as he is unable to work. Immediately after the earthquake struck, Nain and his sons lived in a temporary shelter made of tarpaulin sheets. But generous gifts from TLM supporters enabled them to buy metal sheets to give them better protection when the rains came.

Nain said their tin shack was 'like a palace' compared to the tarpaulin cover. Nain's wife, Pushpa, 42, died instantly when their roof collapsed. Krishna watched helplessly as the walls caved in on his wife of 22 years.

Years passed now since Nepal was struck by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which killed some 9,000

people, injured countless others, and destroyed over a million homes. The hillside villages were hit hard with 90 per cent of homes destroyed. All eight houses in Krishna's village were destroyed. Five people died including Krishna's wife. But Nain's story doesn't end there. Your compassion and generosity have made it possible for them to have a proper home again. Without his wife, Nain was concerned for his families' future: "It's impossible for me in this life to build another house for my family," Nain said.

But your generous gifts in response to our World Leprosy Day campaign (in 2016) along with other donations received from around the world have helped to build a wonderful new home for Nain and his sons and families like him.

<https://www.tlm-ni.org/stories/a-new-start-for-nain>

Yogita's Story

Yogita, aged 12, lives in a leprosy village in India. She was born in this village and has lived there all her life as her mum had leprosy. The parents of the child could not afford to send Yogita to school, but the child received support from the leprosy mission and went to school at the age of seven. Sometime ago she noticed some white patches on her face. These patches started to spread all over her body. Patches like these are often the first sign of leprosy. Yogita was confirmed that she had leprosy. Her hands began to lose the sense of touch.

This was a very strange experience for Yogita, who had grown up being able to tell the difference between soft and hard, hot and cold, smooth and rough.

Yogita's hand now are in danger as the child cannot feel what is too hot or too cold. Yogita stopped going to school because people started to make fun of her, calling her names. She was very sad. Before taking leprosy, she had loved school, and had hoped to become a doctor when she grew up.

At the Leprosy Mission hospital, she got some medicine to cure her of leprosy. It took her a whole year of tablets to stop the leprosy once and for all. A Leprosy Mission worker listened to her fears and worries about school and helped Yogita feel confident enough to return to school. Yogita has worked hard, and managed to catch up and pass her year, even though missing much of it. She'll now move from Standard 8 to Standard 9. She also took part in the end of year Talent Show, and teachers noted how well she did in it, and how much more confident she is becoming.



<https://www.tlm-ni.org/stories/yogita>

Ten Men With Leprosy - poem

By Bob Hartman

Extract from the poem:

Ten men with leprosy,
skin all scarred and goo-ish.
One was a Samaritan,
the other nine were Jewish.

Ten men with leprosy,
toes and fingers gone.
Jesus came into their town.
So as he walked along,

ten men with leprosy
gave him lots of room.
They didn't want him catching
the disease that spelled their doom.

But ten men with leprosy
still wanted to be healed.
"Jesus, make us well!" they cried.
"Make our fingers feel!"



"Ten men with leprosy,"
said Jesus to the lot.
"Go and find a priest to tell you
if you're well or not."

Ten men with leprosy
were healed along the way.
They jumped for joy and laughed and cried
and shouted out "hooray!"...

<https://engageworship.org/ideas/ten-men-with-leprosy-poem>

What leprosy couldn't steal

Leora stretched out her arms towards the light. She thought the white spots would have disappeared by now—and it worried her. But Parthiv, Leora's husband, brushed off his wife's fears; he assumed they were probably nothing. But when the spots grew numb and oozed puss, a fearsome word haunted Leora's mind: leprosy.

When leprosy took over Leora's body, Parthiv started to notice. He saw how his wife suffered as the leprous bacteria ate away at her nerves. Leora's wounds began to smell, and life became miserable for her. In her greatest

moment of need, Parthiv left her without a warning or a trace. All in one moment, leprosy stole Leora's security and demolished the heart of her husband. After her husband abandoned her, Leora's neighbor took her to a nearby leprosy hospital. Though Leora



was just one of the 200,000 people who were diagnosed with leprosy around the world, she was one of the blessed few who received treatment. Sadly, because her condition was not caught or treated earlier, she had to be in the hospital for more than two months. Even after receiving medication and having her wounds cleaned, leprosy still lived inside her body. Though it lay dormant, it had destroyed her marriage and ate away her limbs. But worse than the disease itself, Leora endured the stigma associated with being branded by leprosy.

More than 200,000 people worldwide are afflicted with leprosy, mostly in Brazil, India and Indonesia

Many believe you can easily catch leprosy by simply touching those who have the disease. Because of this fear, infected people are separated from society. Family members may even force them out of the home, leaving their own relatives to fend for themselves in a world that already looks on them with disgust. For centuries, leprosy has stolen people's dignity and future. Leora's life was no different.

But there was one thing leprosy could not steal from her. One day, Leora decided to collect garbage in a nearby village, hoping to find some things worth selling. It was how she maintained her livelihood. The way leprosy marred her body left no chance for her to have a normal job again. Like many others, Leora knew how society painted leprosy with disgrace. No one would hire a leprosy patient.

After a few hours of hard labor, Leora grew very hungry, and like many other days before, she had no lunch. Hoping someone would be willing to offer something to fill her growling stomach, Leora submitted to begging for her meal.

When she went up to a nearby home, a lady named Sabitha answered Leora's plea for food. Sabitha, a relative of a local GFA-supported pastor, noticed Leora's leprous condition, but instead of following the exam-

ple of Leora's husband and rejecting her, Sabitha extended love.

"Jesus loves you," Sabitha said as she provided Leora with a meal.

Jesus. Leora had heard that name before. During her stay at the hospital, she had heard about the One called Jesus. He had healed leprosy patients. It was then that a tiny seed



of hope was planted in her heart. Now, as Leora heard His name once again, that tiny seed began to take root.

Leora opened up about her life's struggles and pain to Sabitha's trustworthy and listening ears. Sabitha, in turn, shared the love of Jesus and encouraged her to go to church. She gave Leora directions to a church led by a GFA-supported pastor where she could attend that Sunday.

Without hesitation, Leora went to church with a few of her friends. There in the church building, Leora felt a fresh sense of peace and joy come into her heart—she was finally meeting with the One she had heard about. Everyone welcomed her so warmly; they seemed to take little notice of her deformed body. What she experienced was the joy of acceptance and belonging thousands of leprosy patients are receiving through GFA's leprosy ministry as God's children pour out love, despite the stigma of the disease.

After the church service, Leora expressed to the GFA-supported pastor, Purnendu, that she wanted Jesus to live in her heart forever.



She had heard about Christ in the hospital, experienced Christ through the compassion and meal Subitha offered her, and welcomed Christ's love and redemption into her life that day.

Leprosy's destruction didn't win out in Leora's story. It couldn't steal her new life in Jesus.

Today Leora is recovering from leprosy. Her wounds no longer give her aches or emit a foul smell. Her life of misery has left her as she has embraced Christ. Now she lives a life of hope and one full of God's love and peace.

"I thank the Lord my God," Leora testified, "for His lovingkindness and tender mercies in my life."

<https://www.gfa.org/news/articles/what-leprosy-couldnt-steal-wfr18-01/>

Arup's story: A brave young man

Arup, 13, has been able to go home from Purulia having travelled 80 miles to the hospital when his mum suspected he could have leprosy.

She is leprosy-affected and thankfully realised something could be wrong when Arup found an ulcer on one of his toes. After being given the cure for leprosy, Arup developed a painful reaction, his body's response as it fights to get rid of the dead leprosy bacteria in it. There is a great risk of becoming permanently disabled at this time and Arup was ad-

mitted to Purulia hospital to receive further treatment.

Arup was very brave during his four-month stay, especially as his mum could only visit him once a month because of the distance to the hospital. Arup has three siblings and if she did not continue her work as a labourer, she could not afford to feed the family.

<https://www.tlm-ni.org/stories/arups-story>



How can we help a child like Arup

*By donating or sending to
The Raoul Follereau Foundation
(Malta) - The Order of Charity on:*

**Order of Charity,
Catholic Institute,
Floriana - Malta**





I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.

-- Mother Teresa

Il-bank tiegħek fil-qalb tal-komunità

L-HSBC huwa l-bank li jinsab fil-qalba tal-komunità tiegħek. B'għarfien internazzjonali u esperjenza lokali, aħna nistgħu ngħinuk tiegħu hsieb aħjar il-finanzi tiegħek. Il-fergħat tagħna huma miftuħin kuljum f'diversi lokalitajiet madwar Malta u Għawdex, b'xi whud mill-fergħat joffru wkoll servizz ta' filgħaxija.

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Nirnexxu flimkien

Raoul Follereau Foundation
[Malta]

Order of Charity,
Catholic Institute,
Floriana - Malta

E-mail: rforderofcharity@gmail.com
http://stlazarusmalta.org/aff_OoC.html

The Raoul Follereau Foundation [Malta] - Order of Charity is a non-profit organisation set up in Malta in 1967 with the goal of collecting monetary support for the assistance of lepers throughout the World. It forms part of the international Raoul Follereau Foundation established in 1946 by the world famous anthropologist who died in 1977. The main aims of the Foundation are:



Raoul Follereau

- to encourage social help to those suffering from leprosy;
- to ascertain that these people are treated as they should;
- to help lepers find their place in society;
- to give financial help to leprosaria and missions working with them.

Help us help fight the scourge of leprosy

Kif tista int tghin ix-xoghol tal-Ordni tal-Karità

- Billi issir membru tal-ghaqda—dan jiswa biss is-somma ta' €20 fis-sena. Li tkun membru jfisser li tircevi in-newsletter regolari b'mogħod elektroniku jew pubblikata.
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